

5th March 1926]

A.—No report on the subject has reached Government to date. A report has now been called for.

Land Revenue.

Conversion of an irrigation lake into 'ayan' in Vellore taluk.

1551 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact there was an irrigation lake which was useful to the ryots of 158 Allapuram village, Vellore taluk, North Arcot district, some time back;

(b) whether Government converted the said lake into "ayan" and whether they assigned the same to the ryots for cultivation;

(c) whether, owing to such assignment by Government in about 80 acres of land, "wet" cultivation has become impossible; and

(d) whether Government contemplate converting the said 80 acres to "dry," giving compensation to the ryot-owners?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information. The matter is one with which the Collector is competent to deal.

(d) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Finance.

Increase in Government expenditure for the last five years.

1552 Q.—MR. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the increase in expenditure by way of pay and allowances for Provincial and Indian services for the last five years?

A.—The expenditure incurred on pay and special pay of All-India, Provincial and other Gazetted officers during the years 1921-22 and 1925-26 is shown below:—

						LAKHS.
						RS.
1921-22	...	...	...	...	...	148.53
1925-26	...	...	...	...	...	155.44
				Increase	...	6.91

These figures have been compiled from the budget estimates of those years.

II.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(a)

The Secretary laid on the table copies of the following Government Orders:—

(1) G.O. No. 89, ^a Development, dated 20th January 1926, passing orders on the audit report and accounts of Chenat Nair forest exploitation, for the year ending 31st March 1925.

(2) G.O. No. 8, ^b Development, dated 4th January 1926, recording the accounts of the Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor, for the quarter ending 30th June 1925.

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(b)

The Secretary laid on the table a copies of the 16th and the 17th meeting of the Finance Committee for 1925-26 held on 12th and 13th February 1926 respectively.

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27.

[Note.—An asterisk* at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Being myself a back bencher I shall follow the advice of a back bencher from the other side, and congratulate the hon. the Finance Member not on being able to give us a satisfactory statement of our finance but on being able to put a dry subject in a readable way. He is accustomed personally to speak of the impossibility of making bricks without straw, whereas I said once before that bricks could be manufactured without straw. Whether he agrees with me or not, I may congratulate myself that I am right in saying that bricks can be manufactured without straw.”

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—“ Metaphorical bricks cannot be manufactured without straw.”

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, because in India we are always manufacturing actual bricks without straw, I understood that the hon. Member referred to metaphorical bricks only. Sir, he may congratulate himself on his being able to give us a readable speech in spite of the fact that the subject matter is most unsatisfactory. Five years have elapsed since the Reforms came into existence and what is the result? So far as the masses are concerned, they have practically got nothing which would be useful to them, whereas the income and expenditure have gone up.

“ Sir, the income in 1921-22 was 15·74 crores while this year it is 16·34 crores. The expenditure in 1921-22 was 16·28 crores including the 3·5 crores to be contributed to the Government of India leaving 12·80 for ordinary expenditure and that has increased to 14·88 this year. If we compare the figure for 1923-24, a year of low expenditure, the expenditure has increased from 1,263 lakhs to 1,488 lakhs this year. The increase is over 2 crores. If, Sir, this increase is due to additional provisions for the nation building departments, it will be something. But nothing substantial can be said to have taken place except probably I must admit a small increase of expenditure under the transferred subjects this year. And in spite of the fact the Government of India have reduced their contribution from 348 lakhs to 222 lakhs with a further reduction of 57 lakhs this year, this is the position. One should ordinarily have expected that we of the Madras Government, I include the Members of this Council also, who wanted to tax the poor people when the expenditure was going up by way of additional stamp and court fees, should have thought it necessary and desirable to reduce the tax when money was available. And I thought that the first duty of this Government would be to give a lien upon this additional income towards the reduction of additional expenditure. Under Stamps alone when the new rate was imposed, in a year we had 31 lakhs of additional revenue and by the magical wand, as it were, of the hon. the Education Minister by the increase

11-30
a.m.